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FIRST CHEMICAL-GLASS FACTORY

Chemical-glass production was initiated on 6 March 1949 in the new factory at Pancevo, the only factory of its kind in Yugoslavia and the third in Europe. The new chemical-glass factory will manufacture tubes and ampoules for medical supplies, as well as tubes for making laboratory glass, which is also a new department in the Yugoslav glass industry. The new factory will not only fill the needs of the medical industry, scientific and medical institutes, hospitals, mines, and light and heavy industry, but will be able in the future to export these articles which are scarce throughout the world and which have been imported until now at great cost.

In addition to the articles which will be manufactured in the chemical-glass factory, the glass industry will also produce the following new articles which were not manufactured in prewar Yugoslavia: bottles for blood transfusions, insulators, optical glass, electric light bulbs, lead crystal from domestic raw materials, glass for miners' lamps, glass wool, and many other kinds of medical and industrial glass which was previously imported, such as Klinger glass, thermos bottles, cylinders for mills and leather factories, glass for copying machines, etc.

After the war, the only factory in Europe which produced chemical glass was in Germany. Yugoslavia, like all other countries, imported the products of this factory for laboratories, medical installations, and factories.

Yugoslavia has almost all the raw materials in sufficient quantities required for the production of chemical glass.

The new modern factory building has all necessary conveniences. The factory rooms are spacious and receive much daylight through the glass walls. Dressing rooms, baths, and showers enable workers to maintain physical hygiene. After the building was completed, the installation of machinery was successfully carried out by a Yugoslav engineer, August Podlunsek, even though blueprints were

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not sent with the machines. A large glass furnace, which runs on gasoline, was installed. However, possibilities for conversion to cheaper fuels are being considered.

The new factory is completely mechanized. In the furnace itself is a mixer, and underneath it is a large scale which regulates the amount of raw material entering the furnace. The mixer throws the raw material into the furnace after the weighing. The melted glass goes from the furnace through a cone, where it acquires the necessary thickness, and then goes through an elongated converter into the machine for cutting tubes.

Besides satisfying domestic needs, the new factory will permit Yugoslavia to export the glass products. Merely because chemical glass will no longer be imported, Yugoslavia will save 40 million dinars yearly in foreign credit, and through the export of these products, a similar amount yearly will probably be gained.

NEW NICOTINE FACTORY IN SKOPLJE BEGINS WORK

The new nicotine factory in Skoplje began operations 27 April 1949. This is the only factory of its kind on the Balkan peninsula.

The Five-Year Plan requires the tobacco industry to increase production of cured tobacco by 170 percent in relation to the average prewar production, an increase of 70 percent in the production of tobacco products over prewar production, and an increase of 100 percent in the production of nicotine as compared to prewar production.

The chief raw materials for production of nicotine are tobacco waste and tobacco dust, neither of which has been exploited thus far since no such factory existed. Because Macedonia is the largest and most important tobacco-producing area, the federal government ordered construction of the nicotine factory in Skoplje, center of this area. Other tobacco enterprises will be built and concentrated in Skoplje so that all these enterprises will form a tobacco combine.

Building of the nicotine factory in Skoplje started in the fall of 1947. Some machinery for this factory was salvaged from a former nicotine factory in Nis, which was completely destroyed by bombs in 1944. All other parts, machines, and apparatus are products of Yugoslav heavy industry. A few parts have been rebuilt by Engineer Radomir Matic.

All factory rooms are steam heated, while the machine sections are heated by hot air. The raw-material mixtures, which lay on the floor in the old Nis factory and emitted an odor ammonia, are now put into specially made boxes. The factory operating system and the transportation of raw materials are almost completely mechanized

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